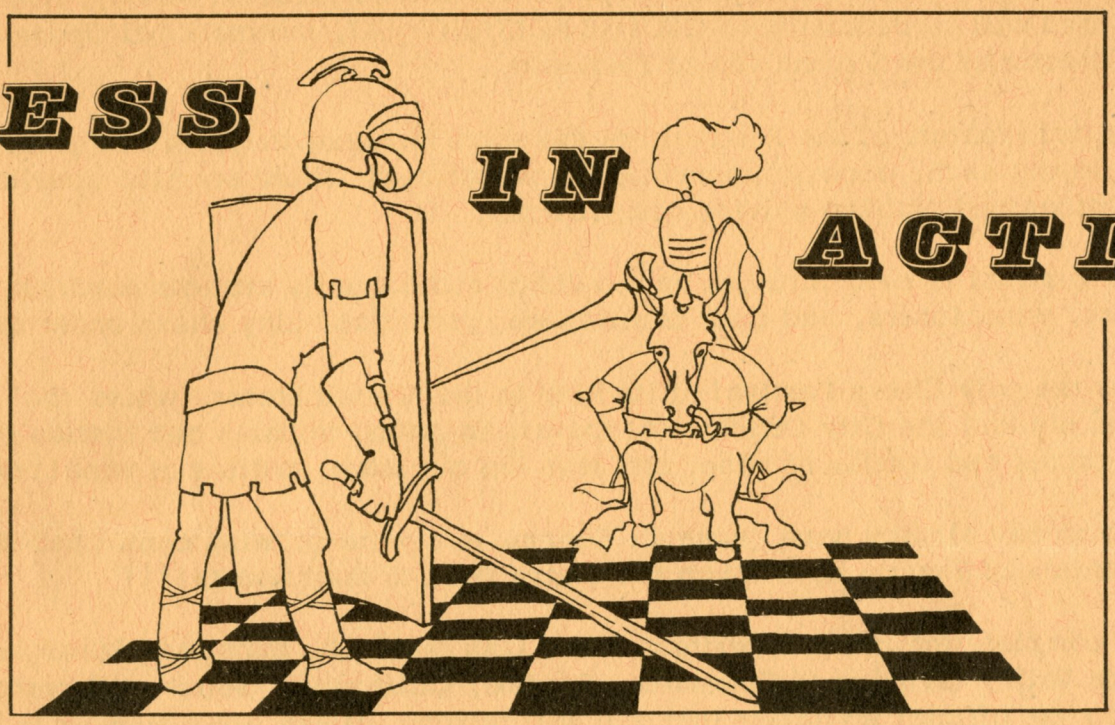
CHESS IN ACTION



******* MAY - JUNE, 1959 *******

****

Published by Chess Friends of Northern California, A Charter Member of the United States Chess Federation. Edited by John E. Almond, 14 Bates Boulevard, Orinda, California. Issued free to Members. Annual subscription $2.00 per annum. ***

****

CHESS MARCHES ON

Chess Friends continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Soon, we hope we may be able to announce further services for members. But what puzzles us a little is what do members want? Would you like more tournaments? Or more and bigger prizes and trophies? Are you interested in the social side of chess? Do you prefer the Problem World of Chess? Or maybe the collector's role? Would you like a bigger and better magazine? Or would you like us to explore the possibilities of obtaining our own Chess Centers with, perhaps, a resident Master or instructor? The trouble is that the only people who respond to such enquiries as this are those who are ardent fans anyway. Those we should like to hear from are those who maybe are thinking of giving up the game, of dropping out. Surely it is not a mere two bucks a year that bother you! Or is it? Are Chess players, on average, a poverty-stricken bunch? Do we play because Chess is cheaper than golf, bowls, tennis? Or are we, as a race, getting gradually more lazy mentally? Drop us a postcard and let us know what YOU think.

VALLEY OF THE MOON FESTIVAL AT SONOMA !!!!!

The Ninth Annual Sonoma Chess Festival will take place on Sunday, August 9, 1959, and will be dedicated to GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI, International Chess Master and Director of the Sonoma Chess Festivals.

The main feature of the Festival are the short tournaments played in groups of four players each, each group having its own prizes. There are also simultaneous exhibitions and problem solving competitions.

The Festival is held outdoors on the PLAZA and annually attracts hundreds of players, winebibbers, and their families who picnic and play chess under the trees.

It is the only Chess Festival of its kind in the United States, where the mercha nts and the City Officials coope rate in giving trophies and bottles of wine, book-prizes and bottles of wine, and last but not least, bottles of wine!!!!!!!!

As you may already have guessed, Sonoma is a wine-growing center and the inhabitants of Sonoma have taken the Chess Fans to their hearts!!!!

For complete information, write to Mrs. Lois McVeigh, Secretary-Manager, Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce, Sonoma, California. Better still perhaps, wait for the official invitation that you will receive, if you are a member in good standing (that means paid up!) of C.F.N.C. The Annual Sonoma Chess Festival is sponsored by the Sonoma Valley Chamber of Commerce.

As a tribute to George Koltanowski, who has worked so untiringly for the good of Chess all over the World and especially in Northern California and who has, I think we must all admit, done a wonderful job, I, your Editor-in-Cheese, suggest that we might make this a real GALA FESTIVAL and attend in FULL FORCE.

SO JUST GET YOUR CALENDAR OUT AND CIRCLE THE DATE - AUGUST 9TH - AND DRAW THE ATTENTION OF YOUR EVER LOVING WIFE TO THE FACT THAT ON THIS PARTICULAR DATE SHE HAD BETTER NOT MAKE ANY DATES TO VISIT YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW, ETC.

****** ****** ****** ****** ****** ******

****** ****** ****** ****** ****** ******

THE BLINDFOLD MASTER
by
Jacqueline Tullis *

He does not peek,
But is not weak.
"I need not see,"
Says Koltanowski.

*Chess widow, 1st Class
Isn't "Jacqueline" a
beautiful name ?

==========

My moves: ????????????????
My opponent's !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
How come ? **********

Bobby Fischer, according to an article by V. Parkhitko in "Shakhmaty" says"

"More than half of Bobby's chess book library consists of Russian works and, while Bobby does not speak Russian, he knows enough to read the chess games and analysis."

We have a surprize in store for you. Just so you can do the same, we have been studying Russian and, in forth= coming issues of "Chess in Action" we are going to show you how to learn enough foreign languages to read chess journals in Russian! French! Spanish!

JUST ANOTHER ALMOND INSPIRATION!

ANALYSIS OF THE AMATEUR, BY THE AMATEUR, FOR THE AMATEUR

by

John Boardman

How often has the chess player of inferior ability consulted a game between masters for enlightenment, only to find that the commentary fails to give any real information on what the players may have been up to? Incomplete annotations, with only a few words every fifteen or twenty moves, are no help to the beginner who is hopelessly struggling to gain some insight into the art of perceiving combinations several moves ahead. The following analysis is an attempt to correct this situation by giving a full account of the play in a recent game.

The game selected for analysis occurred in the first round of last year's championship tournament of the Bowery Chess, Checkers, and Craps Club. Murdoch MacDuffer, three times winner of the Clan MacDuffer Combined Chess and Caber-tossing Championship, was White. His opponent was Jefferson D. Carson-McCorkle, perrennial champion of the Yoknapatawpha County Chess Club and Past Exalted Grand Gargoyle of the White Knights of Mississippi.

Bowery, 1958

Bishop's Opening
Slobbovian Defense

M. MacDuffer J. D. Carson-McCorkle

1. P - K4 ?

White's choice of 1. p-K4, shows a weak grasp of opening principles. His aim should be control, rather than occupation, of the center. Gruenfeld, when asked why he never played 1. P-K4, replied "Because I never make a mistake in the opening."

Earlier authorities also knew this; a survey of Arabic and Persian sources reveals that not one of the great medieval masters ever opened with P-K4. Even in modern times this opening is fraught with danger. Alekhine, while World Champion, used it in five games of a match with an amateur and lost each game within twenty moves. (See Alekhine vs. Amateur, Berchtesgaden, 1942).

1. .... P-K4

Slavish imitation of White's moves will do Black no good; as we shall see, he abandons this this defensive action on the next move. Black has no need to worry about 2. P-KB4; MacDuffer, a Scotsman to the core, has never played a gambit in his life. However, even leaving out this consideration, 1. .... P-K4 is a risky reply to make against a strong player. At a simultaneous exhibition in Tijuana in 1927, eleven amateurs made the mistake of playing this move against Capablanca. Ten were forced to resign, and the eleventh quit in disgust when the judges refused to permit him to promote a pawn to a new King after the old one had been checkmated. See also a little-known game between Fine and Morphy in 1954; Dr. Fine, while hypno-analyzing a patient, was accidentally cut into a conversation between Morphy and a medium in New Orleans, and took the advantage to play a correspondence game.

White violates another cardinal rule of chess: "Develop Knights first, then Bishops." This opening has been out of favor for decades. MacDuffer is not even up to the moderns, let alone the hypermoderns, post-hypermoderns, and the new neo-post-hypermoderns under the leadership of the great German master Holzpfuscher. This school of thought teaches that proper opening play should attempt neither to occupy nor to control the center, but to pass men through spacewarps and bring them out in the opponent's rear. To increase further the role of higher mathematics in chess, the neo-post-hypermoderns sponsored a four-dimensional chess tournament in Princeton in 1951. The games of this tournament sh uld provide a rich source of inspiration when they are finished.

2. .... P - KN3 !.

Abandoning the futile attempt to occupy the center, Black prepares to fianchetto his KB. Few modern chessplayers know that the fianchetto was named after its inventor, Benvenuto Fianchetto, who was a friend, communicant, and frequent opponent of Bishop Ruy Lopez. Fianchetto first played B-N2 in a game with Lopez in 1554. In 1954, F.I.D.E. placed a bronze memorial plaque at the site of the game (third confession booth on the left, Santa Valburga's Cathedral, Rome).

This reply to 2. B-B4 is known as the Slobbovian Defense, since it frequently appeared in the 1948 tournament for the championship of the Slobbovian Autonomous People's Democratic Soviet Socialist Republic. In the final round, with the championship at stake, Nebbishkin used this defense against Patzeroff, and went on to offer a stunning series of sacrifices which won him the tournament's First Brilliancy Prize. In rapid succession, he sacrificed three pawns, a bishop, a knight, and both rooks. He would have climaxed this tour de force with a Queen sacrifice but just then his opponent checkmated him.

3. Q - B3 ??

White continues down his merry way. Not only has he again flown in the face of sound opening practice by developing his Queen prematurely, but he has also deprived his KN of its best square. It was such difficulty in maneuverability that led the British problemist Jack Dawe to suggest abandoning the conventional 8 x 8 chessboard for a larger one on which pieces would be less cramped. After much experiment, he finally proposed a 20 x 20 board, with three ranks of men on either side and six neutrals or "truce observers" in the middle. New pieces included a chancellor, two archbishops, a cardinal, a duke, four harem girls, a grasshopper, a boll weevil, two cannons, and an H-Bomb. This last piece combines the moves of a Queen, 2 Knights, an Archbishop and a checker King. Unfortunately, when Dawe set up the pieces for this game, he found that before play started, each side already had the other's King in checkmate.

3. .... N - K2 !!

Unlike White, Black proceeds in accordance with tested opening principles; a knight is brought into play before B-N2. Furthermore, Black does not develop his men so that they interfere with each other's freedom of action. Whereas

3. Q-B3 keeps White's KN out of play, 3. ... N-K2 leaves the long diagonal free for the bishop, which the otherwise more desirable N-KB3 would not do. Note also that while all three of White's moves have put men in the center squares or those immediately adjacent to the center, only one of Black's has done so. Yet Black controls with two men as much of the center (Q5 and partially Q4) as White does (K4 and partially Q5) with three.

4. QxP

White violates a third rule of sound play by moving a piece twice in the opening. Incidentally, MacDuffer claimed checkmate with this move, but Carson-McCorkle, a true Mississippian, pointed out that his opponent had placed a white queen next to a black king, and accused him of promoting miscegenation. Accordingly, the game was adjourned and referred to the United States Supreme Court for adjudication.

000000000000000

PLAYING CHESS WITH AN ELECTRONIC BRAIN
(Or is it really an electronic idiot ??????)

The following is part of an article entitled "The Next Generation of Computers" by George A. W. Boehm and appeared in the March 1959 edition of "Fortune":

"Some of the most enlightening research (on electronic brains) has been done on chess-playing programs. Chess is a particularly good way to study thought processes because, as M.I.T. mathematician Claude Shannon explains, "Chess is a compact little universe. It is a simplified and abstracted form of what we face in the physical world. It has conflict, logic, goals, and rules. And if we can puzzle these out, we will have clues for the more important and complex things."

For all practical purposes, chess is impossible to analyze exhaustively. On most plays a player has a choice of twenty or thirty moves; not even the fastest computer could study all possibilities that might follow one move. Human players simplify the problem by eliminating most of the possible moves and concentrating on those their judgement tells them are promising. It is this kind of judgement that researchers want to build into computer programs.

Alex Bernstein of IBM, a former intercollegiate chess champion, has written a chess program that has already played a full game. It can beat a beginner but loses to any passable amateur because the computer looks ahead only four moves (two by each player). The machine considers all possible moves and evaluates them according to a formula that takes into account the advantages of castling, capturing a piece, etc. Then it selects the seven most "valuable" moves and analyzes each one four plays ahead. Thus, to make a move, the machine has to evaluate only 7 x 7 x 7 x 7 positions. Even so, it takes an average of eight minutes to make a move.

A more elaborate - and even more cumbersome - chess playing program is being developed by Allen Newell and J.C. Shaw of Rand Corporation with Herbert Simon of Carnegie Tech. Their aim is to make the computer evaluate various goals - e.g., the capture of an enemy piece as against control of the center squares of the board. Under this program, it is estimated thet the machine will spend one to ten hours on each move."

THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY OPEN CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Held at Pleasant Hill Recreation Center, Pleasant Hill, Saturday and Sunday, April 25/26, 1959

A very pleasant and successful tournament was held at Pleasant Hill Recreation Center, in the Heart of Sunny Contra Costa County. There were no less than 49 players present and playing, which, for a "first" was pretty good and you can bet your life that next year's C.C.C.C.C. will be even more successful.

Stan Kilker, President of the Pleasant Hill Chess Club proved an excellent host and the facilities and coffee (all you could drink) were excellent. We would also like to mention the wonderful assistance and co-operation we received from the Janitor who really looked after us.

We were honored by the presence of Lieutenant John Hudson, a past United States Amateur Champion. Guess who won? You're right. Of course, the trophy and the County Championship went to the leading resident of the County and we were delighted that this should be Ronnie Thacker, one of the best chess-promoters and nicest fellows in the Bay Area. It is always nice when the "nice guy" comes out on top. Alack and alas! This does not always happen in real life. I might even expand this to say that with John Hudson, Ronnie Thacker coming out on top in the expert section, Sam Kitabayashi (another fine Chess Friends enthusiast who has never missed one of GK's problems) Carl Seim, one of the pleasentest members of the Oakland contingent, and Fred Oberg of Richmond all coming out on top, we were real lucky in having a bunch of fine guys cop the top honours in their relative sections.

There were a number of door and surprize prizes cadged off local merchants. These added some slight interest to the tournament, especially the "shrunken Head Chessmen" (the only ones of their sort in the world - this we are sure) carved and conceived in a manner only the twisted mind of our Editor could . (Could what? Okay. We are always doing this - beginning sentences and not knowing how to finish them).

Considerable condolences to Bob Karch who, playing in what is probably is his last Chess Friends tournament, had the misfortune to goof when in a winning position in the fifth round against Chuck McGinley. One of those things we usually do at the beginning rather than at the ending of a game and one of those things that our opponents never seem to do. Chuck was so sorry for Bob, he offered him a draw, though he could only have lost had he made a similar error. Well, I suppose that's Chess though I do think that Chuck's recent studies in extra-sensory perception, voodooism, black magic, and sleight of hand, also had a little to do with it.

Door prize winners were Charles Hastdorf of Pleasant Hill, Leroy Turner, of Concord, and Paul Vayssie of San Francisco.

There was a Problem Solving Contest - somewhat of an innovation and so not made the most of, unfortunately. Crowded into a spare hour, lack of time prevented justice being done. However, in what time was available, William Gowen, of Mill Valley, Don Hemovich of Sausalito, John Hudson, of Mather A.F.B. (Nather?), David Kent, of Walnut Creek, and C. Hathway, of Irvington, proved they were the astutest of the astute and received prizes for their prowess.

Detailed results of the Tournament are on the following page.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP - CONGRATULATIONS CHESS CHUMS COMING from all parts of CALIFORNIA.

A GROUP

Lieut. John Hudson	Prize	Mather A. F. B.	4
Ronald Thacker	TROPHY	Richmond, Contra Costa	3 1/2
William Stevens		San Francisco	3 1/2
Robert Karch	Prize	San Lorenzo	3 1/2
David W. Kent		Walnut Creek	3
Chuck T. McGinley	Surprise Prize	Oakland	3
Fred Schoene		Pacifica	2
Robert Oberg		Richmond	2
Don Davis		Pacifica	2
David Hardy	Surprise Prize	Orinda	1 1/2
Leeford McKenzie		San Francisco	1
Earnest Batholomew		Hayward	1

B. GROUP

Sam Kitabayashi	Prize	Martinez	4
Stanley Kilker	Prize	Pleasant Hill	4
Leroy Turner	Prize	Concord	4
Jerry Peterson		San Lorenzo	3 1/2
Tom Maser		Pleasant Hill	3
Wm. Joplin		Oakland	3
Jack Powell	S'prise Prize	Oakland	3
Russell Boates		Mill Valley	3
Douglas Willis		Oakland	3
Wm. Gowen		Mill Valley	3
Glen W. Kent	S'prise Prize	Walnut Creek	2 1/2
C. Hathway		Irvington	2
John Almond		Orinda	2
M. J. Moravcski		Lafayette	1 1/2
Roderick Jordan		Oakland	1
Steve Hoffman	S'prise Prize	Hayward	1
Dr. J hn Alden		San Francisco	1
Don Thompson		Oakland	1
Eugene Maier		Oakland	o

C. GROUP

Carl Seim	Prize	Oakland	5
Paul Vayssie	Prize	San Francisco	4
Tom Dorsch	Prize	Oaklamd	4
Roger McCluney		Hayward	3
James Gowen		Mill Valley	3
A Bushby		Willits	3
Nigel Dodge	Surprise Prize	Willits	3
Jerome B. Weitzner		Walnut Creek	3
Lowell Benjamin		Walnut Creek	3
Charles R. Hastorf		Pleasant Hill	2 1/2
Michael Clear		Sausalito	2 1/2
Harry N. Curtis	Surprise Prize	Concord	2
Peter Hindley		Mill Valley	2

Fred Oberg, Richmond 2; B. Bevins, Oakland 1 1/2; Don Hemovich, Sausalito, and Robert Clear, Sausalito, 1 each. Mrs Patricia Gowen, Mill Valley, Three Cheers for our only woman entrant AND SHE WON A PRIZE!!!

CHESS IN BRAZIL

There is one thing Brazil has that few other countries have and that is the most voracious brand of termite in the world. Import an American Radio or item of furniture made from anything other than the hardest of hardwoods, and you will see a flurry of twinkling wings, a disappearing act, and the next minute your radio set or occasional table will disintegrate before your eyes.

One day, the Barão de Boiciningа was having a game of chess with his friend, the Visconde de Vatapá. The Barão, who had the White men, was definitely on form this day. Suddenly, he announces mate in three moves (See diagram on the opposite page).

Scarcely had the words passed his lips, when a swarm of termites, or "Bichos de Natal" swarmed over the chessboard and the White Knight at Kl disappeared as the breeze that was cooling the room from the French windows dispelled the sawdust that once was a White Knight. The two players looked at each other in astonishment for even they, living in Brazil as they did, had never quite seen anything happen so fast.

Then the Barão, who really was at his sharpest that day, stared again at the board and said " Wait! I do not need the White Knight after all. Even without him, I announce Mate in Four moves. (See diagram on opposite page).

Just as the Visconde was about to agree with him, there was another flurry of wings and the White pawn at Rook's second square disintegrated.

"Well, that seems to cure your Mate in Four" said the Visconde. But the Barão was not to be put off.

"Mate in four may be impossible now," he replied. "But I distinctly see a Mate in Five moves." (See diagram on the opposite page).

The Visconde eventually agreed that this was so and started to set up the men again in the position they had been in before the termites interfered. "I am not too sure about that Mate in Three," he said.

No sooner had he said this, when the White Rook disappeared into thin air. At this, the Barão smiled. "A perfect mate in six!" he said. (See diagram).

****

CHESS CHIT CHAT

The Marines of San Francisco now have a Chess Club - George on the move again.

****

Another Chess Club at the Magnusson Health Club!!!!!!!!! Healthy work!

****

The Police Dept. of San Francisco have also formed a Chess Club for children under the direction of George LaBrash.

****

In June, Vaccaville and Monterey leagues start off with 5 teams.

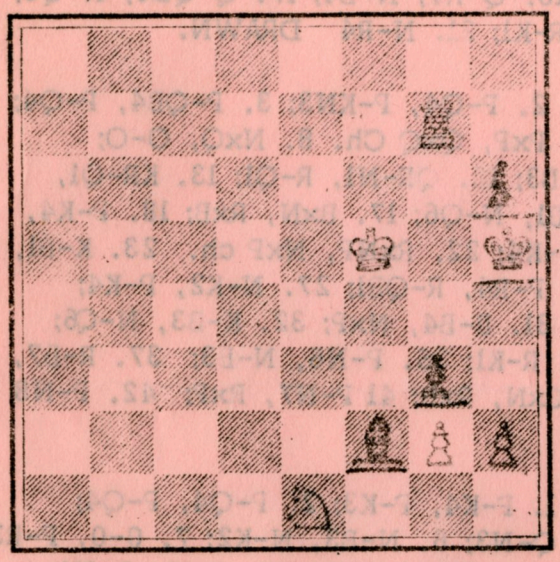
.....

The Carroll Ogden Chess Club has finished its Championship for the 1958/9 season. Winners were:

Group 1. 1st Prize: Frank Lynch: Trophy
Group 2 1st Prize: Carl Spitz Trophy
2nd Prize: Paul Vayssie: Book
Group 3. 1st Prize: Chas. Odenthal: Tr.
2nd Prize: Richard Canty: Bk.

The highest overall score was that of Irving Warner who received a Trophy. There were over 50 participants in this tournament. The Club meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the Marina Jr. High Cafeteria. All welcome.....

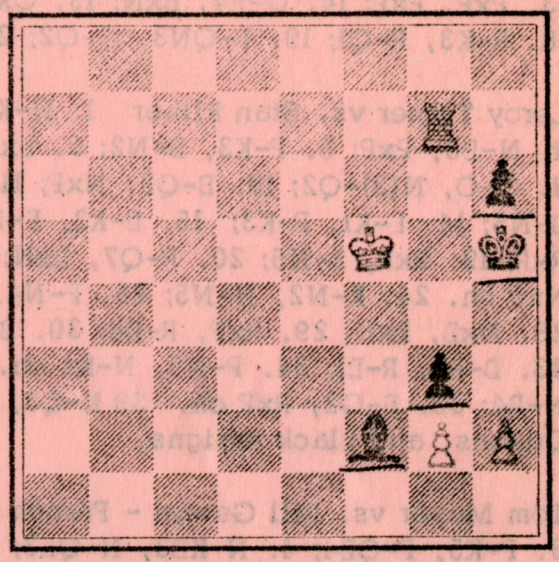
BLACK



WHITE

MATE IN THREE MOVES

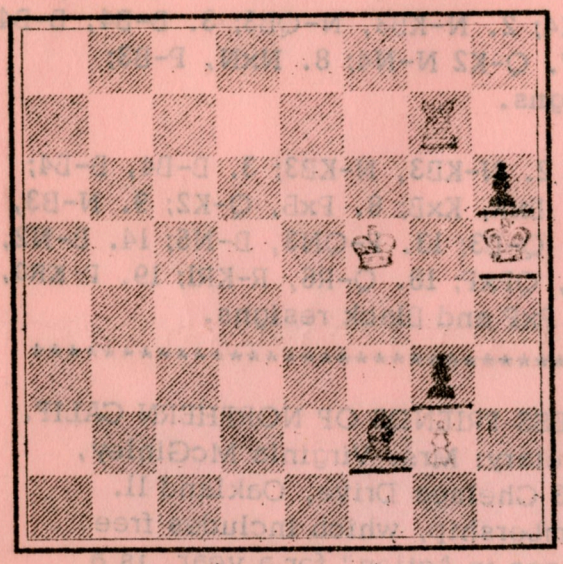
BLACK



WHITE

MATE IN FOUR MOVES

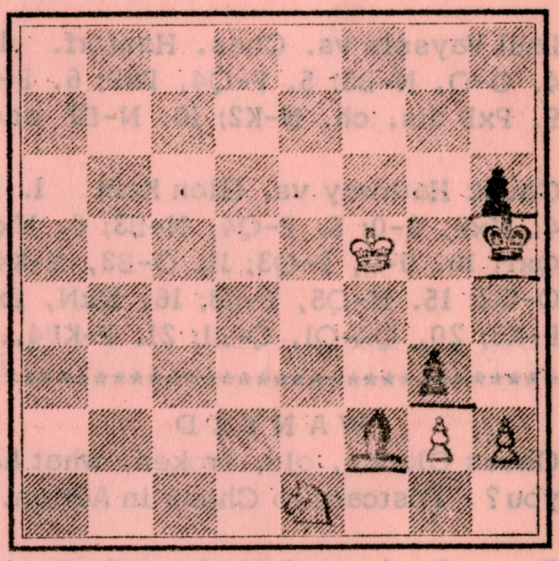
BLACK



WHITE

MATE IN FIVE MOVES

BLACK



WHITE

MATE IN SIX MOVES

GAMES PLAYED IN THE CONTRA COSTA CHAMPIONSHIP

Lt. J. Hudson (White) vs. R. Thacker (Black) 1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. B-N5, P-QR3; 4. B-R4, N-B3; 5. N-B3, P-Q3; 6. O-O, B-K2; 7. N-Q5, NxP; 8. P-Q4, O-O; 9. R-K1, B-B4; 10. P-B3, B-N3; 11. BxN, PxB; 12. N-N4, Q-K1; 13. PxP, PxP; 14. Q-R4, BxN; 15. QxB, P-QR4; 16. Q-R4, N-B4; 17. Q-QB4, N-Q6; 18. R-K3, R-Q1; 19. P-QN3, Q-Q2; 20. B-R3, KR-K1; 21. N-R4 DRAWN.

Leroy Turner vs. Stan Kilker 1. N-KB3, N-KB3; 2. P-Q4, P-KN3; 3. P-QB4, P-Q4; 4. N-B3, PxP; 5. P-K3, B-N2; 6. BxP, P-B4; 7. PxP, QxQ Ch. 8. NxQ, O-O; 9. O-O, N(3)-Q2; 10. B-Q2, NxP; 11. N-B3, N-B3; 12. QR-N1, R-Q1; 13. KR-Q1, B-N5; 14. B-K1, P-K3; 15. B-K2, B-B4; 16. QR-B1, N-Q6; 17. BxN, RxB; 18. P-K4, RxR; 19. RxR, B-N5; 20. R-Q7, BxN; 21. PxB, N-K4; 22. RxNP, NxP ch. 23. K-B1, NxP ch. 24. K-N2, N-N5; 25. P-N4, B-Q5; 26. P-R4, R-QB1; 27. N-K2, P-K4; 28. NxB, PxN; 29. RxP, R-B8; 30. B-Q2, R-B2; 31. B-B4, NxP; 32. K-B3, N-Q6; 33. B-R6, R-B1; 34. P-N5, N-K4 ch. 35. K-K2, R-K1; 36. P-N6, N-B3; 37. R-B7, N-R4; 38. B-Q2, RxP ch. 39 K-Q3, R-Q4; 40. BxN, RxB; 41 P-N7, RxP; 42. P-N8 Queens, and Black resigns.

Tom Maser vs. Bill Gowen - French Defense. 1. P-K4, P-K3; 2. P-Q4, P-Q4; 3. P-K5, P-QB4; 4. N-KB3, N-QB3; 5. B-QN5, Q-N3; 6. N-B3, N-K2; 7. 0-0, P-R3; 8. BxN ch., NxB; 9. N-R4, Q-R2; 10. B-K3, PxP; 11. NxP, NxN; 12. BxN, Q-N1; 13. N-N6, R-R2; 14. NxB, QxN; 15. BxR, B-K2; 16. Q-N4, R-N2; 17. P-B3(Q) Q-B2; 18. B-Q4, Q-B3; 19. P-B4, Q-N4; 20. R-B2, Q-Q6; 21. P-B5, K-Q2; 22. PxP ch. PxP; 23. R-Q1, Q-B5, 24. P-N3, Q-B3; 25. P-B4, BxB; 26. Writing not clear, either R-B1 or B-R1 or - B5 or any combinations thereof, check, P-N7; 27 QxP and Black resigns.

Paul Vayssie vs. Chas. Hastorf. 1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. B-B4, B-B4; 4. O-O, N-B3; 5. P-Q4, PxP; 6. P-K5, N-K5; 7. Q-K2 N-N4; 8. NxN, P-B3; 9. PxP dis. ch. N-K2; 10. N-B7 and Black resigns.

Chuck Hathway vs. Glen Kent 1. P-K4, P-K4; 2. N-KB3, N-KB3; 3. B-B4, B-B4; 4. NxP, 0-0; 5. P-Q4, N-B3; 6. NxBP, RxN; 7. BxR, KxB; 8. PxB, Q-K2; 9. N-B3, QxP; 10. 0-0, P-Q3; 11. Q-B3, N-K4; 12. Q-K3, Q-B3; 13. P-QN3, B-N5; 14. B-N2, Q-Q2; 15. N-Q5, P-B3; 16. NxN, PxN; 17. BxN, QPxP; 18. Q-R6, R-KR1; 19. P-KR3, B-K3; 20. QR-Q1, Q-B1; 21. P-KB4, Q-KN1; 22. PxP and Black resigns.

****

WANTED

Chess Clocks, old, broken, what have you? Postcard to Chess in Action.

Ten or Twelve ardent chessplayers with $100 - $150 to INVEST in some real estate for Chess Club either side of the Bay.

Anyone got a good GO set they aren't using and would like to sell?

****

DON'T BE A BEATNIK - BE A CHESSNIK

****

CHESS FRIENDS OF NORTHERN CALIF.
Secretary: Mrs. Virginia McGinley, 2763 Chelsea Drive, Oakland 11.
Membership, which includes free "Chess in Action" for a year, is a paltry $2.00 !!!!! SO JOIN NOW OR GET YOUR CHESS CHUM TO JOIN.
Field Director: George Koltanowski, International Master and Blindfold Champion.
Ratings Director: Chuck McGinley
Tournament Director: Bill Stevens
Editor-in-Cheese of "Chess Inaction" John Almond, ably assisted by many.